

COLUSA COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

Minutes of Public Meeting

May 12, 2000

The meeting of the Colusa County Children and Families Commission was called to order at 8:48 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Colusa Indian Administration Center, 3730 Highway 45, Colusa, California. Commissioners Dolores Gomez, Nolan Gonzales, Barbara Hankins, Nancy Parriott, and Christy Scofield were present, constituting a quorum.

Items discussed and actions taken in accordance with the publicly-posted agenda were as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes: April 6, 2000 Meeting

Commissioner Parriott moved to approve the minutes without correction; motion seconded by Commissioner Gonzales. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote (5/0).

2. Review Outstanding Invoices and Approve Payment of Expenses

An invoice was received from Chung Sun in the amount of \$19.62 for food provided at the town meetings. This expense was previously approved by the Commission and will be submitted for payment.

An invoice and monthly status report was submitted by Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. for consulting services rendered in April and related expenses. The total invoice amount is \$2,583.93, consisting of \$2,295 in consulting fees and \$288.93 in expenses. Virtually all of the expenses were for travel to San Francisco to attend the April State Commission meeting and travel to/from Colusa for the April 6th County Commission meeting. Commissioner Hankins moved to approve payment of the invoice; motion seconded by Commissioner Parriott. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote (5/0).

Commissioner Scofield indicated that she has accounted for all funds received so far in the county's Children and Families First Trust Fund and has received a report of payments from the State Commission. She will ask the County Auditor's office for a monthly report showing all transactions (money going in and out) and balance for the trust fund.

3. Application for Foundation Consortium Initiative

Discussion was held on an opportunity to apply for two years of technical assistance on results-based accountability and inclusive governance through the Foundation Consortium. Five County Commissions will be selected by the Foundation Consortium to participate in state-level workshops and receive free consulting. A letter of intent was submitted for Colusa County by Mike Smith, with the support of the Commission Chair, in order to give the Commission the option to submit a complete application. The issue now is whether Colusa County should submit an application to be one of the selected counties. It was noted that results-based accountability is the "wave of the future" and is becoming a requirement for many types of programs and services.

After much discussion, Commissioner Scofield moved to not submit an application for the Foundation Consortium technical assistance project; motion was seconded by Commissioner Hankins. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote (5/0). The primary reasons were that (1) the project will be very time consuming and the Commission has limited time and resources to be able to participate, and (2) some local autonomy may be lost because the participating counties will be pushed to develop a results-based evaluation system according to the Foundation Consortium's model, which may not best fit the needs of Colusa County. Mike Smith was directed to write a letter to the Foundation Consortium indicating that the Commission has decided not to apply.

4. April 6 letter from Jane Henderson, State Executive Director

A letter was received from Dr. Henderson that outlined requests for information to be submitted with all county strategic plans and reminded County Commissions that, starting July 1 of this year, funds cannot be released to counties that have not submitted a strategic plan. Mike Smith reported that communications from the State Commission have consistently indicated that counties will not lose any portion of their allocation from the state trust fund if a strategic plan is not completed by July 1. What is expected to happen is that the county's allocation will accumulate in an account managed by the State Commission until the strategic plan is submitted, then will be released in a lump sum. The potential downsides of not having the strategic plan done by July 1 is that it may take a few extra weeks to get the allocation check written to the county once the plan is done, and some interest may be lost on additions to the trust fund after July 1.

5. Report on April meetings of the State Commission and County Commission Directors

Mike Smith distributed reports summarizing the events from the April 19th meeting of County Commission Directors and the April 20th State Commission meeting. Highlights from the meeting and topics of discussion were:

- 13 counties have submitted a strategic plan so far. Roughly half of the 58 counties are expected to have plans completed by June 30.
- Development is underway on a web site for the Colusa County Children and Families Commission. The development and site hosting is being done by the State Commission at no cost to the county. Discussion occurred regarding whether Colusa County wanted to take advantage of another technical service from the State Commission, which is to set up a "virtual private network" that gives the Commission its own dedicated computer network area. The Commission indicated that it wanted to proceed with using this additional service. Mike Smith will follow up with Anthony Souza at the State Commission office and make the necessary arrangements.
- The State Commission meeting will not be coming to Colusa any time soon. Meetings have been scheduled in other counties through December.
- A draft of the State Commission's objectives and priorities for the next year was reviewed. County Commissions will be asked to comment on the priorities in a teleconference call on May 15. The overall impression was that the objectives and priorities look good. Two areas of change that should be advocated for are: (1) whenever the State Commission looks at offering matching grants to County Commissions to support an initiative, there should be a sliding scale so that smaller counties with less funding are not required to put up as much of a match; and (2) the overall strategic result of integrated, consumer-oriented, accessible systems is not clearly visible in the state priorities and should be made more explicit.

- The Kit for New Parents now has a realistic timeline and action plan. It is now planned to be available to all counties by December 2000. Usage of this kit should be incorporated into the strategies that are adopted in the county strategic plan.
- \$3 million of funding was authorized by the State Commission to provide incentives for family child care homes to be accredited. Together with a project funded earlier in the year that offers similar incentives to child care centers, all licensed child care providers in Colusa County should soon have access to financial assistance to help them become accredited. Accreditation is seen as an effective approach to improve the quality of child care.
- The formation of a statewide association of Executive Directors and other “lead” staff to County Commissions is proceeding. Committees have been set up to work on different aspects of creating the association. The fledgling association will meet again on May 17; Sarah Longaker from SEI will attend and will report back at the next Commission meeting.
- AB 1910, the proposed legislation to clarify the authority and legal status of County Commissions, now appears to be dead. No indication has come from the State Commission that new legislation will be pursued in the near future.

6. Public Comment and Unscheduled Matters

- Commissioner Parriott has a one year term that expires on May 24th. To be reappointed, Bonnie Marshall from the Department of Health & Human Services needs to make a recommendation for consideration at the next Board of Supervisors meeting. The Commission members unanimously supported Ms. Parriott’s reappointment and encouraged her to contact Bonnie Marshall to seek reappointment.
- Thanks were given to Commissioner Gonzales and the Colusa Indian Community Council for use of the conference room, and to Sarah Longaker of SEI for providing refreshments.

7. Develop Strategic Goals and Objectives

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to three important steps in the development of the strategic plan:

- 1) Define goals, which are long-term (5-10) results sought for the community;
- 2) For each goal, define objectives that represent shorter-term (1-2 year) milestones or “starting points” to pursue; and
- 3) Determine how to get broad community involvement in developing strategies to achieve each objective.

A facilitated process was used to first define the goals, then develop objectives and test the goals and objectives against the knowledge gained from the recent assessment of community needs and resources. A draft version of the goals and objectives is attached.

Additional ideas that came up during the discussion of goals and objectives, which should be considered as potential objectives the next time the strategic plan is revised, were:

- Increased screening for developmental delays
- Transportation (as a separate objective rather than being a general part of access)
- Increased hours for services
- Home visits with new mothers
- One intake for all services
- More pediatric and obstetric physicians

The Commission next decided to create an Advisory Council to help develop strategies and evaluation methods for each of the objectives. The Advisory Council should have broad representation including parents, kindergarten teachers, County agencies that provide children and family services, child care providers, health care providers, and other interested members of the community that are involved with young children. A list of proposed members is attached.

These persons will be invited to a meeting on Tuesday, May 23rd from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center, 50 Wintun Road, to discuss the formation of the Advisory Council. Dinner will be provided for the meeting to acknowledge the time period are giving up and as an inducement to get people to come. Judy Bates, Commissioner Gonzales' secretary, will arrange the meals. Commissioners will call people to personally invite them to the meeting, then Mike Smith will send out written invitation letters as a follow up. Mike will also take care of creating a presentation and making the other preparations needed for the meeting.

8. Dates for Upcoming Meetings

The next regular Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13 at the Colusa Public Library, Morse Conference Room. Two topics to be addressed in the next meeting are (1) resource allocation philosophies and procedures to be used by the Commission to expend Proposition 10 funds; and (2) the approach to meeting on-going staffing needs of the Commission. Other topics will be added in the coming weeks.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Mike Smith, consultant to the Commission.